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PROPORTION OF THE SEXES.

An exception to the general rule for male births to exceed female births is found in the native races of the colony of the Cape of Good Hope.

Taking the figures for the colony proper for 1896 the following percentages are given : —

Race.	To each 100 girls.	To each 100 boys.
European	102.37 boys or	97.69 girls.
Hottentot	104.16 “ “	96.01 “
Fingo, Kaffir, and Betchuana	99.65 “ “	100.35 “
Malay	102.54 “ “	97.52 “
Mixed and other	104.31 “ “	95.87 “
All races,	102.15 “ “	97.90 “
Other than European,	102.02 “ “	98.02 “

Placing the figures above quoted alongside of those given in the census table the following interesting comparison is given : —

Race.	Females alive, 7th April, 1891, to every 100 males.	Females born in 1896 to every 100 males.
Hottentot	91.97	96.01
European	92.38	97.69
Fingo, Kaffir, and Betchuana	101.86	100.35
Mixed and other	101.13	95.87
Malay	107.17	97.52

A comparison of the census results for 1891 and 1875 as regards the old colony, *i. e.*, excluding Griqual and West and the Transkeian Territories, proves that the number of females to every 100 males of each race (except in the instance of the Malays) has increased two and a half per cent for Europeans, Fingoes, mixed and other, including Hottentots, and one-half of one per cent for Kaffirs and Betchuanas.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WEST INDIES.

Jamaica. Annual Report of the Registrar-General for the Year ended 31st March, 1897. From the General Register Office, Spanish Town, November 29, 1897, pp. 44.

This report is unusually valuable because it presents vital statistics from other colonies in the West Indies, and the registrar, Mr. S. P. Smeeton, hopes to make these comparative reports more perfect, thus presenting a “complete summary of vital statistics for the West

Indies." It is to be hoped that this very desirable object will be attained. In the following table some recent data for Jamaica and other colonies are given :—

Colony.	Year.	Rates per 1,000 Population.			Illegitimate Births. Per Cent.
		Marriages.	Births.	Deaths.	
Jamaica.....	*1896	4.6	38.8	22.7	60.8
"	*1897	4.3	38.5	22.1	61.1
British Guiana.	1895	..	28	29	72.6
Trinidad.....	1896	5.94	33.7	26.5	58.1
St. Lucia.....	1895	6.09	40.4	22.4	59.38
Grenada	1895	5.20	44.93	20.80	49.50
Bermuda.....	1895	..	32.6	21.7	13.2

*Year ended March 31st.

The very high percentage of illegitimate births naturally evokes the most serious attention from the registration authorities. They say that "so long as the present irresponsibility is possessed by those who cause this stream of social impurity to flow over the land, nothing better can be, indeed worse must be, expected." The remarks of Mr. Frederick L. Hoffman on the "Negro in the West Indies" * are quoted with approval.

CRESSY L. WILBUR.

MORTALITY OF NEGROES.

To the Editor of Quarterly of Statistics :—

In your December number a brief notice of the *Sixth Biennial Report of the North Carolina Board of Health* says: "In a former report it was stated that, contrary to the usually accepted opinion, the negro was less susceptible to malarial diseases than the white man. The reports showed the death rate from that disease to be two and a half to one as against the negro. This fact has only been emphasized by the more accurate report for 1896," etc.

Allow me to correct an inaccuracy in the first sentence above quoted. What the report under review really says is: "In our last report . . . we also adverted to the fact that, contrary to the usually accepted opinion, that the negro was less susceptible to malarial

* *Publications American Statistical Association*, June, 1895.